

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. C. R. Crane, June 22, 1895

MRS. C. R. CRANE. Copy of a letter-press copy of a letter dictated by ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL relating to the re-education of a child with a remnant of hearing. June 22, 1895. Dear Mrs. Crane:

Your note of the 19th of May received through the Volta Bureau.

I am most interested in your plans regarding the Oral room in the Douglas School. It would be a great thing if you could be instrumental in establishing a model school such as you describe. I don't like to advise you about Josephine. I think you know what my ideas are, that association with hearing children is much to be preferred to association with deaf children, but after all it comes to the question of expense. If one cannot afford private instruction, than the next best is a small private school — an institution is the last resort.

I have received a letter from Mr. Gillespie, Superintendent of the Nebraska Institute for the Deaf, Omaha, Neb. in which he says that he will attend the Convention at Flint July 2, and will bring some small classes to illustrate auricular work. If he carries out this plan I think that it would be very important for you yourself, and Josephine's teacher to come to Flint and witness the results with his pupils: for Josephine, I am convinced, is perfectly capable of auricular instruction. Another reason why it would be inadvisable for her to associate exclusively with deaf children is that with proper auricular training she could understand the conversation of hearing playmates. If Mr. Gillespie goes to Flint he will likely pass through Chicago. Would you not write to him and ask him to come and see you.

Very sincerely yours, Alexander Graham Bell.